Tehri Dam Project

2437. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tehri Dam Project has failed as no water is being collected in the reservoir, no power could be generated and no water could be diverted for irrigation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that by now, there should have been 12.5 billion metric tones of water in the reservoir, but actually there is only small lake of about 20,000 tonnes in all; and

(c) if so, whether Government have done any investigation to find out why Tehri Dam Project has failed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Diversion Tunnel T-2, which was planned to be closed in December, 2004 for impoundment of Tehri reservoir, has been delayed due to an accidental Rockfall in T-3 shaft of Right Bank-I Spillway on 2.08.2004. It is now-rescheduled for closure in October, 2005 and the water will start filling in the reservior thereafter. A High Level Committee constituted by the Government of India has concluded that the accident was freak and nobody could possible be help responsible for the same. Tehri HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) is in an advanced stage of completion and all the four units of 250 MW each are likely to be commissioned progressively from February, 2006 onwards.

Money for rural electricity distribution

2438. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allocated Rs. 1100 crore for rural electricity distribution in 2005-2006;

(b) what are the incentives provided to generation companies to invest in Power Generation in rural areas; and

(c) how many Private sector power generation companies invested money to generate power only for rural areas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For investments in power generation from conventional sources in rural areas no incentives are being given by the Central Government.

(c) Information is not available.